

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 are pending and rejected in the application. Claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

On page 4, the Official Action rejects claims 1-2 and 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ando (U.S. Patent No. 6,341,196) and Cazier (U.S. Patent No. 7,143,114). It is respectfully submitted, however, that the claims are patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... wherein a data storage format of said parameter information file is such that all parameter information in said parameter information file associated with one data format is stored sequential to all parameter information in said parameter information file associated with another data format by using a classification according to said data formats ...

Claim 1 relates to a parameter information file in which parameter information is stored based on a data storage format. Specifically, all parameter information associated with one type of data is stored sequential to all parameter information associated with another type of data. This feature is supported on pages 12-13 of the originally filed application and furthermore shown in Fig. 2. No new matter has been added.

On page 4, the Official Action suggests that Col. 17, lines 16-29 and Figs. 14 and 15 of Ando teach the parameter information file having the data storage format. In Figs. 14 and 15, Ando shows files being stored in memory. Specifically, in Fig. 14, Ando shows information FID 403 being stored next to recorded position file data 403 (sections 406 and 407 respectively). Andos' information 406 and 407, however, are for a single file having a single format. For example, the parameter information may be associated with a video file having a video format or alternatively it may be associated with an audio file having an audio format. Thus, the information stored is for the same file and therefore has the same format. On page 3, the Official Action also cites Fig. 24 of Ando where various files including a movie file, still picture file and

audio file are stored. The Examiner states that these files are in a subdirectory and all have different formats. Andos' files, however, are not parameter information files having all parameter information (parameter information of movie format is not shown to be stored sequential to all parameter information of still picture format or all parameter information of audio format). Andos' files that are stored sequential to one another are not parameter information files and do not have parameter information of one file format stored sequential to parameter information of another format (parameter information of video is not stored sequential to parameter information of still picture).

Applicants' claim 1, is different than the art of record, because of a data storage format of a parameter information file ("*... wherein a data storage format of said parameter information file is such that all parameter information in said parameter information file associated with one data format is stored sequential to all parameter information in said parameter information file associated with another data format by using a classification according to said data formats ...*"). For example, the data storage format of the parameter information file is at least shown in Applicants' Fig. 2 which includes a header portion, audio file portion, image file portion and video file portion. All of the parameter information associated with the audio file 41 is stored sequentially to all the parameter information for the image file 42. This sequential storage is at least shown as 41, 42 and 43 in Applicants' Fig. 2. This feature is also supported on pages 12-14 of the specification ("*in Fig. 2, header portion 40 stores values in bits representing the respective starting positions of the audio file portion 41, image file portion 42 and video file portion 43*"). Thus, as shown in Applicants' Fig. 2, all the parameter information associated with the audio type of data is stored sequential to all the parameter information of the image type of data which is stored sequential to all the parameter information of the video type of data (all of 41 is stored sequential to all of 42 which is stored sequential to all 43). This is different than the art of record, because Ando suggests sequential files of different formats (Andos' files include the actual data and not all of the parameter information).

On page 5, the Examiner attempts to combine Cazier with Ando in order to reject claim 1. Specifically, the Examiner believes that Cazier suggests giving a unique file ID by using order in which the parameter information file stores the parameter information. Specifically, the Examiner cites Col. 1, lines 15-20 of Cazier

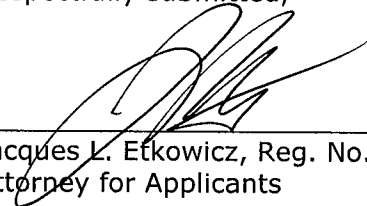
where a sequential numbering system for images is disclosed (*"the camera may contain a list of these files with names that start at the default name and increment upward"*). Applicants, however, respectfully disagree. Casier's number scheme is based on the chronological order in which images are taken by a camera. Casier does not disclose or suggest giving the ID based on the order in which the parameter information is stored in the parameter information file. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 has similar features to claim 1. Thus, claim 6 is also patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 2 and 7 include all of the features of claims 1 and 6 from which they depend. Thus, claims 2 and 7 are also patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Jacques L. Etkowicz, Reg. No. 41,738
Attorney for Applicants

RAE/nm

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P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

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